SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

A Tradition of Service

DATE:

May 3, 2011

OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

FILE NO.

SH2266368

FROM:

ERIC B. SMITH, COMMANDER

LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING DIVISION

TO:

JOSEPH M. GOODEN, CAPTAIN

INTERNAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

SUBJECT:

EXECUTIVE FORCE REVIEW COMMITTEE DISPOSITION:

DEPUTY LORENA ROSALES #

LOMITA STATION

On May 6, 2010, at approximately 0130 hours, Deputy Lorena Rosales was working Unit 173A, out of the Lomita Station. Deputy Rosales was working alone, and driving her patrol vehicle east on Pacific Coast Highway. Her attention was drawn to a dark colored pickup truck, also traveling east on Pacific Coast Highway, directly in front of her. The pickup truck was "straddling" the number one and two lanes of Pacific Coast Highway; Deputy Rosales formed the opinion that the driver was possibly intoxicated.

Deputy Rosales initiated a check of the vehicle's license plate number via her Mobile Digital Terminal (MDT) and continued following the vehicle. The black pickup continued traveling east on Pacific Coast Highway and turned north on Western Avenue. She followed the vehicle and activated her vehicle's rotating lights in order to conduct a traffic stop.

The suspect's vehicle stopped briefly on Western Avenue, but the driver initiated a right hand turn (east) on 257th Street. The vehicle continued east on 257th Street for approximately 75 feet before coming to a complete stop. Deputy Rosales stopped her vehicle behind the suspect's, and began to approach on the driver's side. When Deputy Rosales was approximately 2 to 4 feet from the driver's door, the suspect shot at her from the door's open window. The suspect's gunfire struck Deputy Rosales in the right elbow, and the lower right side of her abdomen.

Deputy Rosales immediately returned fire at the suspect and retreated to her patrol vehicle. She then requested assistance via her hand held radio. The suspect fled the scene at a high rate of speed, east on 257th Street, and out of view.

Assisting deputies responded to her location, and provided aid and assistance to Deputy Rosales. She was subsequently transported and treated at the Torrance Memorial Hospital in the city of Torrance.

A containment was established, and a search for the suspect was initiated. At approximately 0930 hours, the suspect's vehicle was found in an alleyway, at 235th Street and Schilling Court, in the city of Torrance. Approximately one mile and a half of where the shooting had occurred. A surveillance was established on the vehicle, but the suspect was not found. The suspect's vehicle was ultimately seized and processed for physical evidence.

On April 28, 2011 the Executive Force Review Committee convened and conducted a review regarding the facts of this case. The applicable policies that were evaluated by the committee were: MPP §§ 3-01/025.00, Use of Force; 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force; 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force; and 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards.

Concerning:

MPP § 3-01/025.00, Use of Force, MPP § 3-01/025.30, Use of Firearms and Deadly Force, and MPP § 3-01/025.10, Unreasonable Force, the Committee determined that the force used by Deputy Lorena Rosales was reasonable and necessary and in compliance with Department policy.

MPP § 3-01/050.10, Performance to Standards, the Committee determined that the tactics employed by Deputy Rosales in this incident were within Department Policy.

Eric B. Smith, Commander

EBS:RSP/rsp

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Deputy Rosales' Homicide Bureau Interview Transcripts

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- B- Criminal History Report Suspect Ernesto Casillas
- C- Printed Photographs of Scene
- D- Neighborhood and Area Map
- E- Printed Photographs of Deputy Rosales' Injuries
- F Sketch of Scene and Evidence Legend
- G- CD Containing Photographs of Scene and Deputy Rosales' Injuries
- H- CD Containing Audio Recording of Radio Traffic
- 1 CD Containing Audio Recordings of Witness and Deputy's Interviews

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Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

Officer Involved Shooting

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Officer Involved Shooting URN: 910-01597-1712-055

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Officer Involved Shooting Involved Employee Information

URN: 910-01597-1712-055

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Officer Involved Shooting URN: 910-01597-1712-055 Suspect Information Page 4 of

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INVESTIGATIVE SUMMARY
DEPUTY INVOLVED SHOOTING: NON HIT
SH# 2266368
URN 010-01597-1712-055

DATE / TIME / LOCATIONS

Thursday, May 6, 2010 0130 hours 257th Street, East of Western Avenue, Harbor City

On May 6, 2010, at approximately 0130 hours, Deputy Lorena Rosales was working Unit 173A, out of the Lomita Station. Deputy Rosales was working alone, and driving her patrol vehicle east on Pacific Coast Highway. Deputy Rosales' attention was drawn to a dark colored pickup truck, also traveling east on Pacific Coast Highway, directly in front of her. The pickup truck was "straddling" the number one and two lanes of Pacific Coast Highway, and Deputy Rosales formed the opinion that the driver was possibly intoxicated.

IAB Note: Deputy Rosales' Deputy Daily Worksheet for May 6, 2010, and her

Unit History Report are included in this case book. The Lomita Station In-Service sheet for May 6, 2010, EM Shift is also included. See

Miscellaneous Documents.

Deputy Rosales initiated a check of the vehicle's license plate number with her Mobile Digital Terminal (MDT), and continued following the vehicle. The black pickup continued traveling east on Pacific Coast Highway, and then turned north on Western Avenue. Deputy Rosales followed the vehicle and activated her vehicle's rotating lights in order to conduct a traffic stop.

The suspect's vehicle stopped briefly on Western Avenue, but then the driver initiated a right hand turn (east) on 257th Street. The vehicle continued east on 257th Street for approximately 75 feet before coming to a complete stop. Deputy Rosales stopped her vehicle behind the suspect's, and began to approach on the driver's side. When Deputy Rosales was approximately 2 to 4 feet from the driver's door, the suspect shot at her from the door's open window. The suspect's gunfire struck Deputy Rosales in the right elbow, and the lower right side of her abdomen.

IAB Note: Evidence found at the scene (expended shell casings) indicated that

the suspect utilized a .380 caliber semi-automatic pistol during the

attack.

Deputy Rosales immediately returned fire at the suspect, and retreated to her patrol vehicle. She then requested assistance via her hand held radio. The suspect fled the scene at a high rate of speed, east on 257th Street, and out of view. Assisting deputies

responded to her location, and provided aid and assistance to Deputy Rosales. She was subsequently transported and treated at the Torrance Memorial Hospital in the city of Torrance.

A containment was established, and a search for the suspect was initiated. At approximately 0930 hours, the suspect's vehicle was found in an alleyway at 235th Street and Schilling Court, in the city of Torrance. Approximately one mile and a half from where the shooting had occurred. A surveillance on the vehicle was established, but the suspect was not located. The suspect's vehicle was ultimately seized and processed for physical evidence.

Due to the fact that Deputy Rosales sustained gunshot injuries, the Homicide Bureau investigators were tasked with conducting the criminal investigation. During the course of their investigation the investigators identified the registered owner of the pickup truck, Ernesto Casillas, as the suspect that shot Deputy Rosales. The investigators also determined that Suspect Casillas has family in Mexico, and it is very likely that he has fled to that country. Criminal Records indicate that Suspect Casillas has been deported from the United States on at least two occasions.

IAB Note: The Homicide Bureau's investigative case book is included in this case book. See Exhibit A.

Internal Affairs Bureau Lieutenant Michael Grimaldi was notified, and Sergeants Carlos Flores and Scott Graham responded to conduct an administrative review of the incident. The following review is based on written documentation, interviews of witnesses, involved deputies, and medical staff.

IAB SHOOTING / FORCE TEAM

Lieutenant Michael Grimaldi, Sergeant Carlos Flores and Sergeant Scott Graham.

INVOLVED PERSONNEL

Rosales, Lorena, Deputy # 5-03 180 Left Handed Lomita Sheriff's Station

Date of Employment: 04-12-2006
Date Assigned to Patrol: 03-16-2008
Date Completed Patrol Training: Prior Shooting Incidents: Prior Founded Force Incidents:

SUSPECT(S)

Casillas, Ernesto MH/29 5-06 198

The Consolidated Criminal History System reveals Suspect Casillas has been

IAB Note:

Suspect Casillas' Criminal History Report is included in this case

book. See Exhibit B.

EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

None

NON-EMPLOYEE WITNESSES

None

INJURIES

SUSPECT:

Unknown

DEPUTY PERSONNEL:

Deputy Rosales sustained a "through and through" gunshot wound to the right elbow. She also sustained a bruise to the lower right area of her abdomen. She was treated at Torrance Memorial Hospital in the city of Torrance.

IAB Note:

Photographs of Deputy Rosales' injuries are included in this case

book. See Exhibits E and G.

PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

The staff from the Scientific Services Bureau (SSB) recovered several items of evidence from the crime scene. The SSB staff documented their actions and finding in Supplemental Reports (Exhibit A).

IAB Note: A sketch of the crime scene, and evidence legend, is included in this

case book. See Exhibit F. Photographs of the scene are also

included. See Exhibits C and G.

DISTANCE

Approximately two to four feet.

INVESTIGATOR OBSERVATIONS

The Internal Affairs Bureau investigators responded to the scene several hours after the incident. They observed that 257th Street is an east/west residential street, with one lane of traffic in each direction. The street has a standard raised cement curb on both sides of the street. On the north and south side of the street there are mostly apartment buildings with a few single family residences mixed between the apartments. There is a restaurant parking lot directly south of the shooting scene.

Investigators observed a Sheriff's Department black and white patrol vehicle, number SD3956, parked on 257th Street, facing east. The vehicle was parked in the middle of the street, just east of Western Avenue. The vehicle's front driver's door was open. There were several items of evidence marked on the street, directly in front of the vehicle.

For a detailed description of the scene, see Homicide Bureau's investigator's Supplemental Report (**Exhibit A, Page 45**) Photographs of the scene were taken (**Exhibits C and G**), and a sketch of the scene was completed by personnel from the Scientific Services Bureau (**Exhibit F and Exhibit A, Page 121**).

IAB Note: Area and Neighborhood Maps are included in this report. See Exhibit D.

REVIEW OF RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

The Internal Affairs Investigator reviewed the emergent radio broadcast initiated by Deputy Rosales.

In the recording, Deputy Rosales is heard requesting emergency clearance ("10-33"). She then identifies her unit and advises that she has been involved in a shooting. Deputy Rosales gives her location and requests paramedics. She also requests that a containment be initiated. Other deputies are neard advising that they are responding, and Deputy Rosales advises that the suspect has left the location east on 257th Street. She then advises that she is injured but "Code 4."

After being prompted by the SCC Dispatcher, Deputy Rosales advises that the suspect's vehicle is a truck, and that she had just initiated a check of the license plate. The SCC

dispatcher advises that she is checking the suspect's venicle plate number and subsequently broadcasts the plate number. She then broadcasts the residence information of the vehicle's registered owner, Suspect Casillas.

IAB Note: The SCC dispatchers have the ability to run an individual deputy's

Unit Details, which allowed access to the suspect vehicle's plate

number.

An Aero Unit is heard advising that they are en route and they request additional information regarding the suspect and the vehicle. Unit 170S is then heard advising that the suspect vehicle is "dark colored," and that Deputy Rosales had sustained a gunshot. He then requests for additional units to arrive and assist with blocking traffic.

IAB Note: A Compact Disc, containing a recording of the emergency radio traffic

is included in this case book. See Exhibit H

LIGHTING AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

The incident occurred on a clear night (0130 hours).

WEAPONS USED BY DEPUTY PERSONNEL

Deputy Rosales:

Service Weapon Type: Beretta 9mm Semi-Automatic

Rounds Fired Two

Type of Ammunition Used: Department Issued Luger (Win) Ranger SXT

147qr

Date Employee Last Qualified: 03-31-10

IAB Note: A Supplemental Report (Test Fire Exam Report), regarding Deputy

Rosales firearm is included in this case book. See Miscellaneous Documents. Deputy Rosales Firearms Training and Qualification Records are also included. See Miscellaneous Documents. An examination of Deputy Rosales' firearm, by Homicide Bureau detectives, indicated that two rounds were fired. Two expended 9 millimeter casings were also found at the crime scene. See Exhibit

F.

WEAPONS USED BY SUSPECT

Evidence found at the crime scene (three expended .380 caliber casings) indicates that the suspect utilized a .380 caliber Semi-Automatic Pistol. The suspect's firearm has not been recovered

PROPERTY DAMAGE

The suspect's vehicle was found to have sustained some damage during the incident. Three bullet holes and one bullet impact were discovered by the Scientific Services Bureau staff. All three bullet holes were determined to have been caused by a bullet traveling in a front to rear direction. The bullet impact, found on the vehicle's front door molding, was determined to have been caused by a bullet traveling in a rear to front direction. No other damage was found.

IAB Note: For a complete listing of the damage to the suspect's vehicle, see the

Supplemental Report submitted by the Scientific Services Bureau personnel That report is included in this case book. See

Miscellaneous Documents.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATOR/CHARGES FILED

Investigators: Detectives Adan Torres # and Jeffrey Leslie #

Homicide Bureau

Charges: Attempt Murder 664/187 (a) PC, Assault With a Deadly Weapon on

Peace Officer 245 (d)(2) PC, Possession of a Firearm by a Felon 12021(a)(1) PC, Using a Firearm in the Commission of a Felony

12022.53 (b) PC.

IAB Note: On May 24, 2010, the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office, out of

the Torrance Courthouse, filed a seven count complaint against Suspect Casillas. Case Number YA078121. See Exhibit A, Page 272. An arrest warrant for Suspect Casillas was also issued. See Exhibit A, Page 280. Suspect Casillas is presently not in custody.

and believed to have fled to Mexico.

INVOLVED EMPLOYEE STATEMENTS

Involved Deputy Rosales was interviewed at the Lomita Sheriff's Station, by Homicide Bureau Detective on May 6, 2010, at 0425 hours. She was interviewed a second time by Homicide Bureau Detectives Jeffrey Leslie and Adan Torres, on May 8, 2010, at 1215 hours. The interviews were digitally audio recorded.

Deputy Rosales said she was working routine patrol duties in Unit 173A. She said she was traveling east on Pacific Coast Highway, and saw a vehicle (suspect's pickup truck) in front of her, also traveling east. Deputy Rosales said the vehicle was "weaving" between the number one and two lanes of the street, and she believed the driver was possibly a "Drunk driver."

Deputy Rosales said that she positioned her vehicle directly behind the suspect's vehicle, and she initiated a check of the license plate, via her Mobile Digital Terminal. She said that as they had approached Western Avenue, the suspect and her, had to stop for a red light, which provided time to check the plate. She said that when the light turned green the suspect made a left hand turn, north on Western Avenue. Deputy Rosales said she followed, and decided to conduct a traffic stop of the vehicle. She said that when she completed her turn on Western Avenue she activated her rotator lights.

Deputy Rosales said the suspect's vehicle slowed down almost to a complete stop, but then continued forward until it reached 257th Street. She said the suspect made a right turn, thus traveling in an east direction on 257th Street. Deputy Rosales said the vehicle traveled a "Few car lengths," and came to a complete stop in the middle of the street

IAB Note:

Deputy Rosales stated that she has made other traffic stops in the past, in which the driver continues driving a short distance before they stop. She said she believes when this occurs, the drivers are deciding on a good place to stop, in order to not block traffic.

Deputy Rosales said she parked her patrol vehicle behind the suspect's car. She said she turned on her spotlight and pointed it at the suspect's "Driver mirror." Deputy Rosales said she then approached the suspect's vehicle on the driver's side. She said she noticed that the vehicle's windows were all tinted, making it difficult for her to see the interior. Deputy Rosales said that she retrieved her firearm from her holster and held it down at her side, pointing down. She said that the driver's and rear passenger's window were half way down, but due to the vehicle's height, she could not see inside.

Deputy Rosales said that she stopped at the truck's back door and looked toward the driver. She said she could see that the male driver was facing her, but due to the window's obstruction, she could only see a portion of the driver's face. She said she was approximately three feet away from the driver. Deputy Rosales said that she sensed that "something was wrong," based on the way the suspect was staring at her. She began raising her weapon, and was going to tell the driver to show his hands, when she heard "two pops."

Deputy Rosales said that immediately after hearing the gunshots she began feeling pain on her right elbow and right hip. She said she retreated to the rear of the suspect's truck and kept a visual in case the suspect exited. She said she attempted to call for help on her hand held radio, but quickly realized that the radio was not transmitting. She said that the suspect then accelerated the vehicle and left the scene east on 257th Street. Deputy Rosales said she does not remember firing her weapon.

IAB Note:

An examination of Deputy Rosales' firearm indicated that she had fired two rounds during the incident. Two expended 9mm casings were found at the crime scene.

Deputy Rosales said she ran to her patrol vehicle and utilized her mobile radio to call for assistance. She said she then entered her patrol vehicle and awaited for her assisting units, while attempting to broadcast additional information. She said several men approached her vehicle and asked her if she needed assistance. She said she told them to call 911. Deputy Rosales said that she was subsequently transported to Torrance Memorial Hospital. She said she was told by the medical staff that she had sustained a "through and through" gunshot wound to her right elbow. She said she also sustained a bruise to the lower right side of her abdomen.

IAB Note:

The Homicide Bureau Detectives summarized their interview with Deputy Rosales in a Supplemental Report included in this case book. See **Exhibit A, Page 6**. A Compact Disc, containing the audio recording of Deputy Rosales' interviews is also included in this case book. See **Exhibit I**.

Involved Deputy Lorena Rosales was interviewed by Internal Affairs Bureau Sergeants Carlos Flores and Eric Strong on April 18, 2011, at 0535 hours. The interview was conducted at the Lomita Sheriff's Station, and was audio-recorded.

Deputy Rosales' statement and description of the incident during this interview was essentially the same as she provided to Homicide detectives. She reiterated that she did not remember firing her weapon after having been shot by the suspect. Deputy Rosales said that after she was shot, the next thing she remembers is standing at the rear of the suspect's truck. She said she remembers asking for assistance via her hand held radio, while keeping a visual on the suspect's car door.

IAB Note:

During her interview Deputy Rosales was shown a photograph and sketch of the crime scene. She was asked to mark the suspect's and her position when the shooting incident occurred. See **Miscellaneous Documents**.

For Deputy Rosales' complete statements, refer to her interview transcripts.

WITNESS STATEMENTS

The residential neighborhood near the shooting scene was canvassed for any potential witnesses. The area was canvassed by Lomita Station personnel, and Homicide Bureau detectives.

Several of the residents stated they heard gunshots, but did not actually witness the shooting or have any knowledge of the circumstances surrounding the incident. The names of the residents contacted, and a summary of their statements, are included in Supplemental Reports.

IAB Note:

Deputies that canvassed the area, and contacted several potential witnesses, documented their actions on Supplemental Reports. The Supplemental Reports are included in this case book. See Exhibit A, Pages 61-79.

The Homicide Bureau detectives interviewed four males that were standing near the shooting scene when the incident occurred. The four males came to Deputy Rosales' aid, but did not actually witness the shooting. The Homicide Bureau detectives also interviewed a woman who had recently developed a with Suspect Casillas. They additionally interviewed the suspect's During the course of their investigation, Homicide Bureau investigators obtained information that the suspect was born in Mexico and has family who are presently living there.

MH/34

Mr. stated that he and three companions were visiting a friend at 257th Street. He said that as they were leaving, he heard approximately five gunshots. He said he then saw a female deputy running toward her patrol vehicle. Witness said he ran over to the deputy's vehicle, and discovered that she had been shot in the arm. He said he assisted the deputy by placing tissues on the wound she sustained on her elbow.

Homicide Bureau investigators summarized their interview with Mr. in a Supplemental Report. See Exhibit A, Page 19.

MH/35

Mr. said he and three companions were visiting a friend who resides on 257th Street. He said that as they were leaving, he heard what sounded like five gunshots. He said that he then saw a female deputy running toward a patrol vehicle, screaming. He said he saw a vehicle leave the area at a high rate of speed. Witness said he ran to the patrol vehicle and attempted to aid Deputy Rosales.

IAB Note: Hemicide Bureau investigators summarized their interview with Mr. in a Supplemental Report. See Exhibit A, Page 19.

MH/28

Mr. stated that he and three companions were leaving a friends home, and he heard gunshots. He said he heard approximately three shots, a slight pause, and then two additional shots. He said he then saw and heard a female deputy screaming. Mr. said he saw the suspect's vehicle leave the area east on 257th Street at a high rate of speed. He described the vehicle as a black pick up truck, possibly a "Nissan Titan." He

said that he and his companions ran to the patrol vehicle and provided aid to the deputy. IAB Note: Homicide Bureau investigators summarized their interview with Mr. in a Supplemental Report. See Exhibit A, Page 20. MH/30 stated that he and three companions were leaving a friend's home, and he heard four to five gunshots. Mr. said that he had earlier seen a female deputy conduct a traffic stop and approach a dark colored SUV, but he did not witness the shooting. Mr. said that after the shooting he saw the suspect vehicle leave the area at a high rate of speed, east on 257th Street. He said he then ran to the patrol vehicle and attempted to aid Deputy Rosales. IAB Note: Homicide Bureau investigators summarized their interview with Mr. in a Supplemental Report. Due to Mr. was utilized as an interpreter. to speak English, his See Exhibit A, Page 20. FH/20 is a 20- year- old female who had recently developed a with Suspect Casillas. She stated that on the night of the incident, at approximately 0100 hours, she received a telephone call from Suspect Casillas. Ms. stated the Suspect told her that he needed a ride, and that "something bad," had occurred. She said the suspect sounded agitated. Ms. said the suspect did not tell her what he had done, and she was not aware that he had shot a deputy. Ms. stated that she told the suspect that she would not be able to provide a ride, and suggested that he call a taxi. She said that she has not seen or heard from the stated that the suspect drives a black truck, and owns a suspect again. Ms. firearm. IAB Note: Homicide Bureau investigators summarized their interview with Ms. in a Supplemental Report. See Exhibit A, Page 23. The investigator's interviews with Ms. were also digitally audio recorded (Exhibit I) and transcribed. The transcription is included in this case book. See Exhibit A, Pages 195-270.

SUSPECT'S STATEMENTS

Suspect Casillas has not been arrested, and is still outstanding. A warrant for his arrest has been issued. It is believed by Homicide Bureau detectives that Suspect Casillas has fled to Mexico.